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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2013

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/438/Add.6)*]

68/214. Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 64/203 of 21 December 2009, 65/161 of 20 December 2010, 66/202 of 22 December 2011, 67/212 of 21 December 2012 and previous resolutions relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[1]

Recalling also the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)[5] and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals[6] convened by the President of the General Assembly,

Reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development entitled "The future we want"[7] and, inter alia, the commitments concerning biodiversity contained therein,

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 68/6.

[7] Resolution 66/288, annex.

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Reaffirming also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and its principles,[8]

Recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,[9]

Recalling also that the objectives of the Convention, to be pursued in accordance with its relevant provisions, are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding,

Reaffirming the intrinsic value of biological diversity as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in maintaining ecosystems that provide essential services, which are critical foundations for sustainable development and human well-being,

Recognizing that the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention is crucial for sustainable development, poverty eradication and the improvement of human well-being and a major factor underpinning the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,

Recalling that in its resolution 65/161, the General Assembly declared the decade 2011–2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020,[10]

Recognizing that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and that their wider application can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods,

Recognizing also the vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and reaffirming the need for the full participation of women at all levels of policy-making and implementation for the conservation of biological diversity,

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[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[9] Resolution 61/295, annex.

[10] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/2.

Recognizing further the important role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,[11] an international agreement that stands at the intersection between trade, the environment and development, promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, should contribute to tangible benefits for local people and ensures that no species entering into international trade is threatened with extinction, recognizing the economic, social and environmental impacts of poaching and of illicit trafficking in wildlife, where firm and strengthened action needs to be taken on both the supply and demand sides, emphasizing in this regard the importance of effective international cooperation among relevant multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations, and further stressing the importance of basing the listing of species on agreed criteria,

Noting the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its tenth meeting, of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[12] and acknowledging the role of access to genetic resources and equitable benefit-sharing arising from their utilization in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability and, thereby, to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

Noting also that 91 States and 1 regional economic integration organization have signed and that 25 States that are parties to the Convention have deposited their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Nagoya Protocol,

Noting further that 50 States and 1 regional economic integration organization have signed and that 19 States that are parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity [13] have deposited their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,[14]

Noting that 192 States and 1 regional economic integration organization are parties to the Convention and that 165 States and 1 regional economic integration organization are parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Recalling the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its ninth meeting of the strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention,[15] as well as decision X/3, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting,[16] on the review of its implementation, including the establishment of preliminary targets by the Conference of the Parties in its decision XI/4, adopted at its eleventh meeting,[17]

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[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[12] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/1.

[13] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

[14] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/5/17, annex, decision BS-V/11.

[15] Ibid., document UNEP/CBD/COP/9/29, annex I, decision IX/11.

[16] Ibid., document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex.

[17] Ibid., document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/35, annex I.

Noting the outcomes of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention[17] and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol,[18] both held in Hyderabad, India, in 2012,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;[19]

2. *Encourages* parties in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to take concrete measures towards achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization,[12] requests the parties, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to coherently and efficiently implement the obligations and commitments under the Convention, and in this regard emphasizes the need to comprehensively address at all levels the difficulties that impede the full implementation of the Convention;

3. *Recognizes* that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity can significantly contribute to disaster risk reduction and to reducing the adverse impacts of climate change, including by adding resilience to fragile ecosystems and making them less vulnerable;

4. *Urges* the parties to the Convention to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with its provisions, and in this regard takes note of the strategy for the practical implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation, as well as of decision XI/2, entitled "Review of progress in implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related capacity-building support to parties";[17]

5. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the secretariat and the Global Environment Facility, as the financial mechanism of the Convention, in conjunction with United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, as well as other entities, in organizing capacity-building workshops to support countries in the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, with a view to enhancing capacity and addressing the need for human, technical and financial resources to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020[10] and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting,[10] in particular for developing countries;

6. *Urges* parties to promote the mainstreaming of gender considerations in developing, implementing and revising their national and, where appropriate, regional, biodiversity strategies and action plans and equivalent instruments in implementing the three objectives of the Convention;

7. *Calls upon* Governments and all stakeholders to take appropriate measures to mainstream consideration of the socioeconomic impacts and benefits of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components, as well as

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[18] Ibid., UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/18.

[19] A/68/260, sect. III.

ecosystems that provide essential services, into relevant programmes and policies at all levels, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities;

8. *Reaffirms* the importance of continuing to pursue more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, and calls upon parties and stakeholders to strengthen international cooperation measures for the fulfilment of obligations contained in the Convention, including through addressing implementation gaps, in particular with regard to article 15 of the Convention;

9. *Also reaffirms* the importance of achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted by the Conference of Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting, and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020;

10. *Recognizes* that parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have reiterated that resources, financial, human and technical, need to be mobilized from all sources, and that this should be balanced with the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, stresses the need for further consideration of the evaluation of all resources mobilized in terms of the biodiversity outcomes achieved, and in this regard welcomes the decision of the parties to the Convention on an overall substantial increase in total biodiversity-related funding for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 from a variety of sources, including national and international resource mobilization, international cooperation and the exploration of new and innovative financial mechanisms;

11. *Invites* countries that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention;

12. *Invites* parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to the Nagoya Protocol so as to ensure its early entry into force and its implementation, and invites the Executive Secretary and the Global Environment Facility, as the financial mechanism of the Convention, in collaboration with relevant organizations, to continue supporting capacity-building and development activities to support the ratification, early entry into force and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;

13. *Takes note with appreciation* of the realization of the joint briefing by the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Intellectual Property Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the implementation of the objectives of the Convention, including actions undertaken to promote access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization and associated traditional knowledge held on 30 October 2013, and notes that similar interactions should be encouraged, recognizing the respective mandates of the organizations involved;

14. *Takes note* of the work done by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and Related Provisions, and in this regard invites the secretariat of the Convention, through the Secretary-General, to report on the progress made when reporting on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

15. *Encourages* parties and all stakeholders, institutions and organizations concerned to give appropriate consideration to biodiversity issues in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, keeping in mind the Strategic Plan for

Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development;

16. *Recognizes* the progress made towards the development of the first work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which aims to provide the best available policy-relevant information on biodiversity to assist decision makers;

17. *Stresses* the importance of the engagement of the private sector and other stakeholders in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and in achieving biodiversity targets, invites businesses to align their policies and practices more explicitly with the objectives of the Convention, including through partnerships, and in this regard notes the ongoing work of the Global Partnership on Business and Biodiversity;

18. *Notes* the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[20] and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [21] (the Rio conventions) and of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, acknowledges the importance of improving coherence in the implementation of those conventions, recognizes the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives, and encourages the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to consider strengthening efforts in this regard, taking into account relevant experiences and bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of those instruments;

19. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and on difficulties encountered in the process of their implementation;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

71st plenary meeting
20 December 2013

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[20] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[21] Ibid., vol. 1771, No. 30822.